

LEARN Vision: To ensure that every child has access to high quality public education through systems of education, support, and service.

**LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR/BUSINESS MEETING
Remote meeting via Zoom
Minutes
April 9, 2020**

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, Clinton; Michael Hornyak, East Haddam; Patricia Stricker, East Lyme; Tim Hagen, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Guilford; Kristen Peck, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, Madison; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Region # 18; Diane Linderman, Stonington; Craig Esposito, Waterford; Christopher Jones

Representatives not attending: Deep River; Lenore Grunko, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Region #17; Suzanne Sack, Salem; Sean Reith

Not Attending and Not Represented: Westbrook

Presenters, Staff and Other Guests: Michael Belden, Nat Brown, Donna Worst

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Public Comment: No public comment

Reading Review of Correspondence by the Executive Director: Mrs. Ericson shared correspondence from Jill Rusk on behalf of the City of Groton Mayor's office in appreciation for LEARN's support and use of the Marine Science Magnet High School in assisting with their district's food distribution program serving over 315 families.

Superintendent's Perspective: Executive Director Ericson and LEARN CFO, Mike Belden, shared Covid-19 impacts and LEARN's responses: LEARN created a "Centralized Communications System" which provided an email and phone hotline which to date has responded to 405 telephone calls, 133 emails as well as sending out over 23 messages to students, families and staff, organized and implemented a collaborative 3-phase "Distance Learning Program", supporting special needs students and families through innovative programs Services and access to clinical and behavioral staff, calculated the COVID-19 impact to LEARN financially due to decline in revenues, increase in expenses, and off sets in expenditures would be a net loss of \$30, 000 to \$40,000 and determined that LEARN's emergency reserve fund would be tapped to retain all 12 month employees on staff and paid through June

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes- March 12, 2020

Approval of 2019-2020 budget

Approval of Grant Applications-for New London School Readiness Program- "Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration", grant awarded (\$16,800) funded by CT Early Childhood

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Funder Collaborative; a project of Connecticut Council for Philanthropy Project; Funding agency: CT Early Childhood Funder Collaborative

Approval of Rental Rates for 2020-2021 of \$7.37-\$10.93 per square foot

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Daniels second by Mitchell

Motion passed: unanimously

Information from the Executive Director

The following Information from the Executive Director was included in the packet.

Hiring update: A three-year snapshot of monthly hiring and resignation data for the following job classifications: teachers, administrative staff, non-certified school-based staff, and non-certified twelve-month staff. In addition to the traditional format, the intent of the trending data is to provide additional insight to assist in staff retention and areas of need.

Executive Committee - Minutes March 27, 2020

Legislative update: Mrs. Ericson shared that the State is committed to funding magnet schools. Districts will receive their magnet funding and will be expected to pay. Non-payment would result in ESC money being used. A sub-committee has been working on a new formula for **all educational funding** lead by CT Association of School Superintendents, Executive Director, Fran Rabinowitz and Connecticut's retired Commissioner of Education, Dr. Ted Sergei.

Agency updates: LEARN's Birth to Three services has been defunded as of June 30, 2020. Some staff have already been lost to private providers. However, the agency continues to provide the needed services and supports to the children and families throughout our LEARN region for the remainder of the school year. End of year ceremonies, will be planned, together with the school communities. Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle School (DLAMMS) will work in conjunction with students, families and staff to have a special program to honor the closing of the school.

Old Business: Non-renewal of Non-tenured Certified Staff-

Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the LEARN Board of Directors non-renew the teaching contract of those named below at the end of the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Executive Director; and ratify, adopt and accept the Executive Director's determination that the contract be non-renewed. Further move that the Executive Director be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to those named below, and that the Executive Director be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Directors to any requests for a hearing or for other data which may be forthcoming from those named below and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes 10-151; and further move that the Executive Director be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Directors.

Julia Reid

Motion to adopt as presented by Esposito, second by Luty

Motion passed: unanimously

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New Business: Request for Use of School Facilities (use of Marine Science Magnet High School parking garage, restrooms, outside areas for City of Groton Parks & Recreation summer program). Additional information requested regarding insurance and Groton's process for determining the program's continuation regarding Covid-19

Motion to table until May meeting by Rodriguez, second by Linderman
Motion to table: unanimous

Establish Nomination Committee to submit a slate of officers for the following year- per Policy # 9200, By Laws of Board; Election of Officers

Motion to approve the following members to the 2020-2021 Nomination Committee:
Chris Jones, Bob Mitchell, Rita Volkmann, Tim Hagen by Volkmann, second by Daniels
Motion passed: unanimously

10. Educational Perspective: Continued discussion from membership regarding COVID-19 challenges and proposals for grading, graduation, mental health, and employment

11. Round Table/Future Agenda Items:

12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn @ 10:28am by Linderman, second by Luty**
Motion passed: unanimously

LEARN is a Regional Educational Service Center working with, and for, its member districts to improve the quality of public education for all learners. We provide leadership for teaching and learning; We provide high quality, innovative schools and programs; We identify and deliver customized and cost effective programs and services; and, We promote collaborative partnerships and regional cooperation.

Submitted by
Donna S. Worst
Executive Office Coordinator/Scribe
April 9, 2020